

RED CROSS HOME SERVICE WORK VERY IMPORTANT

Does Much To Keep Men In Army in Good Spirits.

SOME OF THE THINGS DONE

Dependents Left Behind By the Soldiers Cared For.

By W. Frank Parsons, General Director of Civilian Relief, Am. Red Cross.

"Keep the home fires burning," that is the biggest and most important service of those who remain at home to our soldiers and sailors at the front.

It was a high official of the War Department who expressed in that fashion, the importance of the maintenance of the morale of the troops in the field and of the civil population at home. To see to it that the soldiers' families are contented, free from want and unnecessary cares and burdens, and that the man himself knows that all's well "back home" is already one of the big jobs confronting the people of the United States and it will be a bigger job as more and more of our men go "over there."

The American Red Cross has already begun to get this work well in hand, and as its importance comes to be more generally understood and realized, volunteer capable workers help in keeping pace with the need. By far the largest work the American Red Cross has done and is doing is the alleviation of distress among the civilian population of France, not merely by gifts and financial aid, but by an intimate contact with the soldiers' families, which strengthens their courage to hold out until the end. It is this confident courage that, transmitted from the family to the soldier himself, gives the French army a degree of morale unexpressed in the history of warfare, and it is upon the morale of the fighting forces that victory for the Allies depends. It is the testimony of all who are familiar with the work of the Red Cross in France that it has been the largest single factor in strengthening the French morale, its work in the United States through its Home Service department, may easily become an equally vital factor in strengthening and maintaining the morale of our fighting forces.

It is difficult to define concisely the functions and work of the Red Cross Home Service. Its scope is as boundless as the category of human needs and troubles. Broadly, it may be said that its business is to keep the soldiers' families from worrying and so keep the soldiers or sailors from worrying. But the sources of worry are so multitudinous and the means employed to remove them so manifold that every new case presents a new problem. Hence, except the broadest generalization, are impossible; wide human sympathy, deep understanding of human nature, keen interest in individual human troubles, and a knowledge of available means of relief are none too extensive an equipment for the Home Service Worker. Thousands of men and women possessing these characteristics are in the service, and thousands more are undergoing special training for the work in the Home Service Institutes and classes established in connection with every Red Cross chapter.

One of the important phases of Home Service work is the establishment of the Red Cross as the connecting link between the soldier overseas or in camp and his family. The soldier tends to hear from his family; naturally, he worries his efficiency as a soldier is definitely impaired. Or he may receive letters that worry him—details of home troubles, sometimes serious, sometimes trivial, but still sufficient to distract his attention from the main business of being an efficient soldier.

More than 90 per cent of army desertions, in the experience of the Allies, have been due to unhappy letters from home, the home tie is stronger than the call of duty. Accessible to every soldier in a Red Cross representative who, through the Red Cross, communicates directly, through the Home Service section of the local chapter in the soldier's home town, with the family, and get some cheering word back to the man in khaki. It may be that the letters sent have been misdirected or lost in the mails. The Home Service worker may find a young wife of the spotted, petted kind so common in America, who has been used to unleashing a budget of household worries upon her husband every evening and who does not realize that part of her duty is to keep him cheerful. Or there may be real trouble that can be straightened out with the kind, intelligent, organized aid of the Red Cross. To the definite improvement of the morale both of the particular soldier involved and of his family. Perhaps it is the family at home that needs the first contact with the Red Cross. The man at the front has not been heard from or his name has appeared in the casualty lists or among the missing. The Red Cross can and does ascertain the facts about his condition, or if he is a prisoner in Germany, gets into communication with him. It is the only means of communication between American prisoners and Germany and our own Government.

When the expected money, allotted from the soldier's pay, has not been received from the Government. The Red Cross acts as an intermediary between the family and the Government. And in a recent order of the War Department the Red Cross has become the recognized attorney for soldiers and their families in the enforcement of their civil rights under the new Soldiers and Sailors' act.

The 12,000 and more instances which assistance of one sort or another has already been rendered to the soldiers' families by the Home Service division of the New York Chapter of the Red Cross cover a variety of conditions almost as numerous as the cases themselves. The mother of one soldier for instance, soon after her only son had gone into the service, required a serious operation; the money available would not pay for it. The Red Cross provided proper surgical and hospital attention and advanced money to tide her over. Innumerable cases of the failure on the part of the wife or dependent mother to receive allotments of the soldier's pay are traced to the cause of the soldier's illegible penmanship or his enlistment under his real name while he was known to his associates by another, and so his family was difficult to locate. James Baker in the city directory, for example, may have enlisted under his real name of "Jacques Boulanger"; his family may not know his real name—even his wife may have forgotten it.

The young wife of a soldier who went over with General Pershing's first detachment encountered unexpected complications in the business affairs he had left her in charge; she had little business experience and was almost in despair. Her case was laid before the Red Cross by an able attorney and the head of a big banking institution; they worked out a solution for all her difficulties. Her letters to her soldier husband took on a new tone and he won promotion.

The list of specific cases could be lengthened indefinitely. Thousands of families have been informed for the first time by the Red Cross Home Service of their right to allotments of a soldier's pay; there have been innumerable cases of where children have been taken out of underpaid or too exacting employment and replaced in school or provided with more suitable work; thousands of wives of soldiers and sailors have been provided with opportunities to earn more and to live better. Especial attention is paid to the maintenance of proper standards of living; every effort is made to see that these standards do not deteriorate in the absence of the wage earner. Thrift and economy are taught; women who have never known how to spend wisely are taught the difference between extravagance and comfort. If the soldier is promoted to a commission, the new associations he will make in the army demand that his family shall promote itself with him, and his wife is brought into contact with the wives of other officers.

The medical phases of the Home Service are legion. Provision for the best possible care in confinement and afterward is an important phase. In hundreds of cases conditions of ill-health, some of them serious, have been brought to light and remedied. The Red Cross, it might be said here, recognizes no distinction as to the need for service between the unmarried woman who is the mother of a soldier's child and the soldier's wife. The latter, however, can claim and obtain an allotment of part of his pay; the former cannot. To her and to others who have a right to depend upon the earnings of a man who has gone to the front, but who are not legally entitled to government allowances, financial aid is given.

The mearest class of grantees are the men who try to induce mothers and wives to part with the money the Government sends them by offering them "bargains" in real estate trying to sell them unnecessary and overpriced luxuries on the installment plan, and in countless other ways endeavoring to prey upon their inexperience. To many families the amount of money which they receive monthly represent larger amounts of ready cash than they have been accustomed to having at any one time and they fall easy victims to the wiles of these sharks. As the activities of petty swindlers multiply, the need for friendly aid increases.

An adequate idea of the multiplicity of services rendered by the Home Service section is supplied by the actual record of one chapter, in a city of about 400,000. The conditions in which aid was extended are classified as follows:

Tuberculosis 16
Epilepsy 5
Insanity 10
Heart disease 10
Occupational diseases 1
Disability from accident 6
Feeble-mindedness 12
Old age 7
Other diseases 300
Juvenile delinquency 20
Blindness or impaired sight 11
Underemployment 7
Unemployment 23
Loan shark victim 1
Miscellaneous (including confinements) 167

Total 402
The services rendered, grouped into rather inclusive classes, are as follows:

Financial aid 202

Medical aid 32

Hospital 33

Dental aid 10

Transportation 18

Temporary employment 19

Permanent employment 5

Business equipment provided 8

Special vocational training 4

Extension of credit 41

Church connection strengthened 4

Legal aid 26

Removal to better homes 13

Families visited 77

This chapter has a staff of 194 volunteer workers in its Home Service section, including fifty-four "friendly visitors," thirty-seven investigators, thirty-six committee members, thirty-two clerks, and thirty-five motor cars contributed for the service.

In Red Cross Home Service there is no parading of the necessities of an unfortunate family either before its neighbors or members of the Red Cross organization. Investigators, "friendly visitors," and other workers wear no uniforms they do not display Red Cross flags nor in any other way advertise their missions. The work is not "charity" in the ordinary sense; it is a service to the country.

Twenty-five Home Service Institutes in as many cities have been established. They are in connection with universities and colleges. Those attending must take a six weeks' course, giving all of their time to their studies, and must pledge to the Red Cross a definite period of work after graduation. Other institutes are being established. For those who are unable to attend these institutes, there are other shorter courses. These are conducted by the Red Cross chapters. The "friendly visitors" are largely recruited from those who have taken these chapter courses.

It is not the majority of families of absent soldiers and sailors that require the help of the Home Service section, but in many others the power of self helplessness has already been strained to the breaking point by lack of opportunity, ill-health or the sudden change in the way of living due to the war conditions. For these the Red Cross is extending the helping hand to their men "over there" it is

carrying the message that the home fires are still burning.

It has been noticed that the ash tree is very injurious to vegetation under it shade, while scarcely any plant will grow under a yew.

Representatives of the British Seamen's Union are endeavoring to form a new international federation.

It is officially denied that Canada contemplates the conscription of labor, masculine or feminine.

UNDERSELLING'S CLEAN SWEEP SALE! BEGINS TOMORROW MORNING JUSTIFIABLE WAR DECLARED ON ALL SUMMER MERCHANDISE

The Prices Are the Victims and They Are Cut and Slashed Right and Left Throughout the Entire Store, Assuring Easy Victory for Practical Bargain-Seekers. Thousands of dollars' worth of high-grade merchandise, consisting of desirable and reliable wearing apparel for man, woman and child, is placed on sale now at prices that urge you on to buy for economy's sake. You know as well as we know that for the duration of the war prices will continue to soar, and here is presented an opportunity for you to "Cash In" on your present and future needs at prices that will not be duplicated. This is the Sale for Thrifty People.

JOIN THE GREAT ARMY OF MONEY-SAVERS WHO WILL TAKE THESE BARGAINS BY STORM DURING THIS SALE.

5.98 For men's summer suits in dark patterns, values up to \$9.50.	7.98 For men's service, able suits to close out, values up to \$12.50.	37 1/2c For men's mesh shirts or drawers, 50c value. Buy now for next summer.	98c For ladies white Jap silk waists, lace trimmed or embroidered worth \$2.00.	49c For Ladies corsets of good quality cut, not all sizes, values up to 75c.	7.98 For ladies' suits of good quality serge \$12.50 values.	10.95 For ladies' suits of good grade poplin, black and navy, \$16.50 values.	
9.76 For year choice of a splendid selection of men's suits worth up to \$15.00.	11.98 For men's suits in worsted and saccorine, fine qualities. Values up to \$14.00.	55c For men's blue chambray work shirts, 85c value. A small lot on sale. Hurry!	29c For boy's khaki knee pants now worth 50c nearly all sizes in lot.	93c For Ladies house dresses of Ginghams and percales, less than cost of raw materials.	2.79 For ladies' street dress of neat vintages and ginghams plaid effects \$4.00. values.	4.49 For ladies' silk skirts in a large choice of fancy stripes and plaids values up to \$6.50.	
14.95 For men's suits of all wool serge or worsted, now worth \$22.50.	1.30 For boy's suits of washable beach cloth well worth \$2.50.	1.39 For men's khaki work pants, \$1.75 values buy all you will need, now.	69c For men's dress shirts with or without collars, now worth \$1.00.	98c For sizes 27 x 54 handsome tapestry rugs, now worth about double.	98c For ladies white wash skirts good styles, values up to \$2.00.	2.48 For ladies low shoes in patent or dull leathers values up to \$3.50.	
1.98 For men's dress pants in grey or blue worsted, \$3. values.	3.48 For men's fine dress pants of blue and worsteds \$5 values.	BLUMBERG BROS CO. UNDERSELLING STORE MAIN ST. OPPOSITE COURTHOUSE FAIRMONT, WVA. ORIGINATORS AND LEADERS OF LOW PRICES IN FAIRMONT.				1.79 For ladies white canvas shoes high or low heels, \$2.50 values.	98c For your choice of a lot of ladies' and children's hats valued up to \$3.00.

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Can't Help But Admire Babies

Every Woman Casts Loving Glance at the Nestling Cuddled in its Bosom.

It is a joy and comfort to know that those much talked of pains and other distresses that are said to precede child-bearing may be avoided. No woman need fear discomfort if she will fortify herself with the well known and time-honored remedy, Mother's Friend.

This is a most grateful, penetrating, external application that at once softens and makes pliant the abdominal muscles and ligaments. By regular use the muscles expand without the usual strain when baby is born and pain and danger at the crisis is consequently less.

Women everywhere who have used this famous remedy tell how they entirely avoided nervousness, twitching spells, bearing down and stretching pains, and relate how they enjoyed entire freedom from the many debilitating and distressing experiences usually incident to approaching motherhood.

Mother's Friend is recommended only for the relief and comfort of expectant mothers, thousands of whom have used and recommended it. It is for external use only, absolutely and entirely safe and non-toxically effective.

Write the Bradford-Regulator Co., Lenox Bldg., Atlanta, Ga., for their "Mother's Friend" Book, so valuable to expectant mothers, and in the meantime obtain a bottle of Mother's Friend from the druggist today and thus fortify yourself against pain and discomfort.

No remedy can honestly promise to *heal every case of eczema or similar skin ailment*. But Resinol Ointment, aided by Resinol Soap, gives such instant relief from the itching and burning, and so generally succeeds in clearing the eruption away for good, that it is the standard skin treatment of thousands and thousands of physicians. Why not try it? Resinol Ointment and Resinol Soap are sold by all druggists.

If your skin itches just use Resinol

FRAIL, DELICATE CHILDREN GET STRONGER, EAT HEARTIER AND LIKE THIS TONIC.

GIVES THEM STRENGTH, ROSY CHEEKS, APPETITE.

My son, William, aged six, was very delicate and never had been strong, and recently he had become so bad his appetite was gone. I tried doctors, but some way their medicine did him no good.

A druggist to whom I was telling my troubles told me he thought Hypo-Cod the best tonic for such a case and recited how his little girl had gained 17 pounds by using it and been built up and strengthened wonderfully. I took his advice feeling that at last I was on the right track and my little boy's appetite is just splendid and he eats with a relish everything we put before him. He gets hungry before meal time, where before he took Hypo-Cod we had to scold him to make him eat. He likes Hypo-Cod too and often wants to take a double dose.

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2 in 1 SHOE POLISHES

KEEP YOUR SHOES NEAT

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PARIS GARTERS
No metal can touch you
are made for you

Men of America:
"Rustless Day"

Every day is "Rustless Day" for PARIS GARTER wearers. No matter how warm the weather, how profusely you perspire—the metal parts on PARIS GARTERS cannot and will not rust. They're made of rustproof, nickled brass.

A most important consideration when one realizes—as you do—how rust ruins the elastic and how frequently it irreparably soils your garments.

It's economy to buy the better grades of PARIS GARTERS—at 35¢ or more

A. STEIN & CO.
Makers of **HICKORY** Garters
Chicago New York

This is the PARIS made mark

PARIS GARTERS
No metal can touch you

All Traces of Scrofula Cleansed from the Blood

Impurities Promptly Wiped Out.

If there is any trace of Scrofula, or other impurities in your blood, you cannot enjoy the full physical development that a healthy body is capable of until your blood has been thoroughly cleansed and purified of all traces of impure matter.

S. S. S., the wonderful old purely vegetable blood remedy, has no equal for removing the last trace of Scrofula and other blood taints, and there is no case that it does not promptly reach. S. S. S. will thoroughly cleanse and remove every disease germ that infects the blood and give you new life and vigor. It is sold by all druggists and you should get a bottle and begin its use to-day. Write a complete history of your case, and you can obtain expert medical advice free by addressing Medical Director, S. S. S. Swift Laboratory, Atlanta, Ga.

MARTIN'S DRUG STORE

SAVE THE WHEAT!
NO BREAD AND BUTTER FOR ME WHEN I CAN HAVE

POST TOASTIES
(MADE OF CORN) says Bobby